

15 FEB 1949
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CONFIDENTIAL
GENERAL

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1. Norway increasingly concerned about USSR intentions--US Embassy Oslo observes a growing Norwegian apprehension of future Soviet intentions and reports that a high Norwegian official has expressed concern over possible Soviet seizure of north Norway or Spitzbergen. The Embassy expresses doubt that such action is likely but concurs in the view of the US Military, Naval, and Air Attaches that the USSR will soon make "some move in relation to" Spitzbergen.

(CIA Comment: CIA believes the Kremlin is unwilling to assume the risk of general war which would be involved in any direct action against Norway or Spitzbergen. CIA considers it likely, however, that the USSR will again bring up the question of Spitzbergen in a further effort to intimidate Norway.)

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NO CHANGE in Class. ☐

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State, DIA reviews completed

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FAR EAST

3. **CHINA: Nationalists ask US to delay Tsingtao withdrawal...**
US Ambassador Stuart transmits a request from Acting President Li Tsung-jen that the withdrawal of the US Navy from Tsingtao be delayed for a few weeks. Li reportedly feels that the continued presence of the US Naval base at Tsingtao strengthens the position of his Government during the critical phase of peace discussions with the Communists. Stuart believes that the US should support the Acting President in any reasonable proposal which may be helpful to the Nationalist cause at this time; he suggests that the withdrawal be slowed down as much as may be operationally feasible so that some US naval units will remain in Tsingtao over the next few weeks.

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